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APPLICATION OF

SHENANDOAH GAS COMPANY

CASE NO. PUE970616

**For authority to increase its rates and
charges for gas service and to revise its
tariffs**

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

April 6, 1998

On March 31, 1998, Shenandoah Gas Company ("Shenandoah Gas" or "the Company") filed a request to revise its interim rates now in effect and subject to refund. In this case, the Company originally proposed an annual increase of \$2,306,000 and was authorized to place its proposed rates into effect on an interim basis, subject to refund with interest, for service provided on and after December 28, 1997. On March 12, 1998, Shenandoah Gas filed a Motion to Revise Interim Rates to incorporate the Staff's proposed changes in revenue apportionment and rate design. Because the Company failed to reflect that it had also accepted some of the Staff's accounting and revenue requirement adjustments, in effect reducing its requested increase, this motion was denied by Ruling dated March 24, 1998. Pursuant to that Ruling, Shenandoah Gas now seeks to lower its overall increase request to \$2,017,244, for service rendered on and after April 8, 1998. Furthermore, the Company's revised interim rates incorporate Staff's proposed revenue apportionment and rate design recommendations. This results in an increase in rates for some customer classes, principally, the interruptible transportation class, and lower rates for most other customer classes.

Staff has reviewed the Company's revised interim rates and I am informed that Staff believes that those rates incorporate its revenue apportionment and rate design recommendations.

Having considered the Company's filing, I find that the Company's revised interim rates should be accepted, and the Company be directed keep accurate records of all amounts received under its revised interim rates and to refund the appropriate amounts with interest should the Commission modify or reject the Company's proposed rates. Accordingly,

IT IS DIRECTED:

(1) That Shenandoah Gas's revised interim rates, supporting an annual increase in revenues of \$2,017,244, be made effective for gas service rendered on and after April 8, 1998;

(2) That Shenandoah Gas continue to keep accurate accounts in detail of all amounts received under its interim rates;

(3) That interest upon any refund hereinafter ordered by the Commission shall be computed from the date payment is due until the date refunds are made; and

(4) That Shenandoah Gas shall bear all costs of such refunding.

Alexander F. Skirpan, Jr.
Hearing Examiner